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INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

COMPANIES INCREASING CEMA COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING STATES

Moscow PLANOVOYE KHOZYAYSTVO in Russian No 12, Dec 79 pp 94-98

[Article by A. Dobrovol'skiy, candidate of economic sciences]

[Text] Member-countries of the Council of Economic Mutual Aid commemorated in 1979 an important event--the 30th anniversary of the functioning of the Council. The CEMA provides for all countries of the world a graphic example of equal political and economic relations, the proper combination in them of national and international interests and the realization in practice of the principles of proletarian, socialist internationalism.

An important place is occupied in the foreign-economic activities of CEMA countries by their many-sided ties with developing states, which in their character, aims and results are in opposition to the economic relations to be found within the framework of world capitalist economy. At the same time, the countries of the socialist community systematically employ such fundamental Leninist principles as equality of countries, respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity, noninterference in the internal affairs of each other, mutual gain and conscientious fulfillment of obligations. At the same time, the developed capitalist states utilize their economic and technical superiority as a powerful means of pressure on partners and extraction of one-sided benefits and advantages.

At the present time, the countries of the CEMA have stable trade relations with more than 100 developing states. The volume of commodity turnover among them in 1977 reached 14 billion rubles compared to 0.8 billion rubles in 1955 and constitutes 10 percent of the trade turnover of the countries of the socialist community. From 1955 to 1977, there was a significant growth (from 14 to 78) in the number of developing states in Asia, Africa and Latin America to which CEMA countries have provided and continue to provide economic and technical assistance. Thus, with the economic and technical assistance of CEMA countries there were built and are being built on the basis of concluded agreements 3,560 industrial and other facilities, 2685 of which have become operational. The total sum of credits granted them on the basis of preferential conditions by countries of the Council consists of about 15 billion rubles.[1]

The urgency of the task of expanding and deepening economic ties with these countries was emphasized anew in the Statement of the CEMA Session on the 30th Anniversary of the Council of Economic Mutual Aid. It was pointed out in it that the CEMA would henceforth develop relations of cooperation with third-world countries in the interest of deepening international division of labor on a just, equal and mutually beneficial basis, making thereby its contribution to the progressive reorganization of world economic relations.[2]

Present cooperation encompasses a broad area of stable relations between CEMA countries and many developing states in the sphere of foreign economic policy, production, barter, development of science and technology; it has various forms. Such a form of cooperation as establishment of mixed companies is being expanded.

By mixed societies and enterprises in economic relations there are meant such companies (and enterprises) in whose formation of production capital and management of affairs both state organizations and private firms of two or several countries participate. Such a company is an independent juridical entity with all the corresponding rights and obligations. All problems connected with its creation, operation, organizational status and other factors are regulated by the legislation of that countries where the society is registered and operates. The sphere of its activity, method of its formation, distribution among the parties shares of participation in capital, profits, the establishment of special advantages for this or that side in the field of management and other benefits and also the method of resolving arising disputes are determined by the charter of the company and treaty on its establishment in conformity with the norms of local legislation.

This form of cooperation is not new. One of the first forms of economic relations of the young Soviet state with countries backward in an economic sense was that of mixed companies involving the participation of economic organizations of the Soviet state and national capital of these countries. Most developed economic ties in the form of mixed enterprise have been established with the countries of the East, especially with Iran. As far back as the twenties, 11 mixed companies involving the participation of economic organizations of the USSR were established in Iran alone.[4]

The beginning of the creation of mixed companies in developing states involving the participation of CEMA member-countries goes back to the middle of the sixties. From 1966 to 1971, in Africa alone, 25 mixed companies were formed involving the participation of Bulgaria, and 40 were formed in developing countries with the participation of Hungary.[5]

Mixed companies differ as to purposes, functions and spheres of activity. The selection of their form depends on different factors, including the particular political and economic situation in the developing country, the degree of development of its economic relations with CEMA countries and the actual methods and means of creating mixed companies, as well as the special features of the national legislation. According to their legal status, the latter may be either joint stock companies or companies with limited liability. For example, Hungarian organizations, the initiators of mixed companies, widely use both forms of partnership.

Depending on the participation of a different type of capital, mixed companies may be broken down into five groups: state national, state and private national capital of one developing country, private national (such participation predominates) capital of several developing states (for this special agreements are signed with the developing states) and national capital of industrially developed capitalist states.

According to the sphere and object of activity, mixed companies are trade, industrial, transport-expediting, insurance and credit-finance. The predominant ones are trade companies.

Mixed trade companies break down according to character of activity into export, export-import and trade-industrial. The most common are export companies. They include the Soviet-Nigerian Vaateko Company (1967) for the sale of machinery and equipment, the Hungarian-Mexican Cortesa Company for the sale of metalworking machine tools of Hungarian manufacture in Mexico and in countries of Central America, the Czech-Morocco Sima Company (1960) for the sale of machinery and equipment of Czechoslovak manufacture and others.

The developing companies are also showing much interest in the activity of mixed export-import companies. These companies import to CEMA countries manufactured goods, principally participating as partners in them. An example is that of the mixed Soviet-Ethiopian EFSO Trading Company and the Czechoslovak-Nigerian Kneiko. The EFSO Trading Company was created in 1967 with the participation of the Soviet foreign-trade associations Energomasheksport, Avtoeksport and Traktoreksport. The company exports to the USSR coffee, raw leather, oil-yielding crops and other goods and imports to Ethiopia Soviet machinery, electrical and other equipment. It is also engaged in technical servicing, repair and supplying of spare parts for Soviet equipment.

The Kneiko Company specializes in the export of Czechoslovak machine-building products and the import to Czechoslovakia of consumer goods. It also fulfills the role of a center for technical servicing, performs installation work, repair, adjustment and care of machinery, sells spare parts both wholesale and retail and also trains national cadres.[6]

In recent years mixed trade-industrial and industrial company have been operating with the participation of CEMA countries. They are characterized by the establishment of a direct connection of trade with production. Thus,

Thus, the Bulgarian-Algerian Brandy Plant, mixed countries involving the participation of Bulgaria for the cultivation of cotton, fishing, production and trade in natural rubber in Ethiopia and several other countries are operating successfully.[7]

Mixed companies involving the participation of CEMA countries are one of the most complex forms of economic ties. They are subordinate to the legal regime of the developing state and operate in internal and foreign markets as national enterprises of these states. Their organization and activity are based on a unique combination of private and state firms and companies of developing countries and socialist ownership. This socialist share of ownership for a certain time into the temporary possession of the mixed company of the developing country. At the same time it continues to be a part of common socialist property. What happens to this part of the property after its transition into the hands of the mixed company, which operates both in domestic and foreign markets as a national enterprises of the developing country? Does this mean that during the period of existence of the mixed company socialist state monopoly does not apply to the property turned over by the CEMA country to this society? No.

Any form of mixed enterprise involving the participation of a foreign firm has to be approved in each individual case by a special organ of the social-state, that is, by the state itself, which in this way exercises its monopoly right. But in the given case the state creates a special form of economic activity in developing countries.

Mixed enterprise, regardless of the juridical form of its organization (joint-stock company, company with limited liability and so on), is based on conditions of share participation. Each participant retains the right of ownership of his share. For this end, all mixed companies involving the participation of CEMA countries included in their charters articles in accordance with which the actions of the company must be obligatory for the pertinent organizations of CEMA countries only following their approval by their own representatives. Consequently, organizations of CEMA member-countries through their representatives in a mixed enterprise retain for themselves, which means for the state, the ownership of their share.

The participation of CEMA countries is shared participation not only in the forming of the company's basic capital but also in the results of its operation, that is, in the profits and acquisition of a part of the products. Profits obtained from the operation of mixed companies are used basically for increasing trade with the developing country, for the creation of technical consulting centers for the service of clients and also for the formation of own monetary funds.

By expanding mixed enterprise, CEMA countries increase thereby the size of their property, which in this instance does not lose its social-economic value. It serves as the bearer of modern technology and more progressive relations compared to the national enterprises of these states.

Profits constitute an important aspect of mixed enterprise involving the participation of CEMA countries in developing states. Mixed companies in developing states involving the participation of both capitalist and socialist countries operate in an unorganized market, under conditions of mutual competition. Naturally, each entrepreneur is interested in obtaining as big a possible surplus value over outlays of capital. Profits in this way are one of the most important indicators of the effectiveness of a company's operation and serve as a source of expanded reproduction and also as a means of material stimulation of its personnel. Finally, they are an important source of accumulation and increased income for the participants of the mixed enterprise.

Despite all the diversity of concrete interests, the participants of a mixed company cannot but help be interested in profits, both distributed between them and left at the disposal of the company for ensuring its normal functioning. The chief thing here is to properly determine the correlation of these two parts on the basis of the special features of the enterprise and of the existing prices for its products. Priority for ensuring their normal functioning should serve as the basis for the solution of this task in the work of mixed companies involving the participation of CEMA countries.

Mixed companies in developing states involving the participation of CEMA countries are similar as to form to comparable companies in which capital of industrial developed capitalist powers takes part. But they differ radically from the latter in their social-economic and political content and in the direction of their activity and goals.

Mixed enterprise in developing countries involving the participation of industrially developed capitalist powers serves the interests of monopolist capital, trying through the use of this new form to subordinate young liberated states to their influence and to internationalize still more the process of exploiting of hired labor and to hinder the achievement of economic independence by the liberated countries.

In distinction to monopolies, CEMA countries pursue essentially opposing goals which stem from the very nature of socialism and its genuinely internationalist foreign policy. They aim at speeding up the development of the national economy of the young states and at the rational use of their natural and manpower resources in the interest of mutually beneficial cooperation. In creating mixed companies in developing countries, CEMA countries are guided by the principles of mutual assistance and mutual respect of sovereignty regardless of the size of share participation in these companies.

Compared to other forms of economic ties, mixed companies have a number of special features. Such cooperation is based on a joint form of ownership and extended character of joint activity, which lends it a great deal of stability. The operation of mixed companies in one form or another not only full compensates for the diversion of resources from the economy of CEMA countries but also promotes the accumulation of exchange and the solution of their own national-economic tasks.

Furthermore, the foreign partner in mixed companies has the same rights as the national; he is granted by local legislation legal and financial guarantees from any expropriation and nationalization of property for the period of the contract and is guaranteed full compensation in case of the occurrence of such an action. Mixed companies lower the participant's risk connected with economic activity, limiting the liability to the sum of paid capital, and do not permit making any demands on the participant in connection with the obligations of the company.

Finally, mixed companies receive various kinds of benefits and privileges granted by legislation to local industrial and other firms and companies: financial (in the form of various subsidies on the establishment of the enterprises, reduction of percentage rates for credits, various grants), economic (such protectionist measures as the introduction of special tariffs, exemption from tasks, priority in placement of state orders or provision of services and so on), social (support of labor by departments, assistance from technical and professional institutions, easing of entry of foreign specialists into country).

Through mixed companies organizations and enterprises of CEMA countries establish direct business ties with directly interested firms, the market and users in developing states, thus avoid various intermediary links, particularly the intercession of other firms. Moreover, they contribute to familiarization with constantly changing market conditions, real demands of user, economy of expenditures on the production and sale of goods through the use of production capacities and the system of sales and servicing of the partner.

Practice has shown that mixed companies functioning in developing states with the participation of CEMA countries acquire still greater importance for developing countries. Effectiveness of their operation is largely determined by the correlation of class and political forces in the developing country, its foreign-political and foreign-economic orientation, degree of dependence on foreign capital, attained level of economic ties, including in the form of mixed entrepreneurship, and so forth.

Participation in mixed companies permits developing countries to attract and use material and financial resources, experience and knowledge of the partner and to develop new possibility for the creation of enterprises equipped with modern equipment and organization of production on a higher technical level, reduction of costs of production and circulation, introduction of the most effective forms and methods of labor organization and management and so on. Furthermore, all this is provided without outlays of foreign exchange. Moreover, an opportunity is created to expand imports of goods from CEMA countries, especially machinery and equipment.

Thus the mixed Soviet-Nigerian Nacteco Company was created in [illegible]. It supplies machinery and equipment to Nigeria. In terms of the scale of operations and technical equipment, it occupies one of the first places among similar mixed companies in Nigeria. The company sells on the local market Soviet passenger automobiles Volga, Moskvich, Lada and trucks GAZ, ZIL, UAZ of various modifications, motor scooters and bicycles. The volume of sales of Soviet motor vehicles of this company on the Nigerian market has grown from 24 motor vehicles in 1962 to 2,100 in 1973.

The company also serves as an agent firm for a number of associations of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade trading in machinery and sells on the local market road construction equipment, pumps and compressors, diesel generators and electric locomotives, welding equipment and so on. Nacteco is the largest center for the demonstration of Soviet machinery and equipment. With the participation of Soviet foreign-trade associations, it organized from 1970 to 1974 five large expositions for the demonstration of tractors produced by USSR industrial enterprises. In a comparatively short period, it has created a powerful base for the servicing and repair of motor vehicles and opened its branches in other states.

With the development of mixed enterprise involving the participation of CEMA countries, a growing number of developing states are using the socialist market as a factor affecting their foreign-economic interests. Moreover, the sale of a significant amount of goods by mixed companies (or through them) on the market of CEMA countries contributes to the fuller utilization of production capacities and manpower resources and to the raising of labor productivity in the developing states.

Finally, the operation of mixed companies permits developing states to make fuller use of the experience of socialist countries relating to organization and management of production, solution of tasks of industrial development, training of national cadres and so on. These companies help national firms to improve their position in the system of mixed entrepreneurship with the participation of industrially developed capitalist powers, forcing the latter to take into consideration to a certain extent their national interests and to make many concessions.

It is necessary to emphasize such an important social-political aspect of the operation of mixed companies as promotion of rapprochement, better mutual understanding and strengthening of friendly relations between CEMA countries and the developing states and the establishment of a new, just order in international economic relations.

The development of mixed companies involving the participation of CEMA countries, like other forms of economic and scientific-technical cooperation, contributes to the creation of an independent national economy for the developing states, the strengthening of the state sector in it and the realization of progressive changes in the national-economic structure. The establishment of the companies does not impinge on the rights of sovereignty of developing states [illegible] their national [illegible]. Moreover, charters of mixed companies involving the participation of CEMA countries [illegible] at any time [illegible] the withdrawal of the company from the developing state [illegible] settlement of its financial [illegible] of the latter [illegible] agreement to this. In other words, mixed companies provide the possibility for the partner to exercise its sovereign right with respect to all resources belonging to it and at the same time to obtain the necessary means, [illegible], technology and experience.

Under present-day conditions, the creation and development of mixed companies in developing states involving the participation of CEMA countries is becoming one of the important ways of expanding production cooperation. Mixed companies promote the expansion of specialization and cooperation and strengthening of integrational processes. They lead to the formation of stable economic and scientific-technical ties between both groups of countries in the most important fields [illegible] of the economy. Mixed entrepreneurship could become an important supplementary instrument for strengthening of economic ties and improvement of their effectiveness.

Improvement of the operation of mixed companies could be achieved along many directions. The chief of them, in our opinion, is intensive creation of mixed companies in the sphere of material production, especially in key sectors of industry and [illegible] state sector (for example, expansion of the network of such companies in fuel and raw-material sectors). Under the conditions of the scientific-technical revolution, the development of mixed entrepreneurship in energy is becoming especially important. Electrification plays a decisive role in boosting the efficiency of industrial production in developing countries.

The operation of mixed companies is successful in the material-production sphere on the basis of different forms of production cooperation and specialization. Such cooperation will be of mutual interest to both groups of countries and contribute to acceleration of their social-economic progress and the liquidation of underdevelopment among the young liberated states and also to their rapid progress along the path of independent development.

"The Soviet Union," Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers A. N. Kosygin noted, "is interested in having cooperation with developing countries assume the character of a stable and mutually beneficial division of labor."

The development of mixed enterprise in developing states with the participation of CEMA countries depends largely on the creation of such legal, economic, financial and organizational and technical conditions on an international and national basis which would favor the organization and establishment of contacts with the partners from the developing countries and the conclusion and realization of agreements on mixed companies. The development in developing states of mixed entrepreneurship involving the participation of economic organizations of CEMA countries does in no way disparage the important role of other forms of economic cooperation. Only in combination and active interaction with them will mixed companies and enterprises become an additional instrument for the expansion and deepening of CEMA cooperation and boosting of its stability and effectiveness.

FOOTNOTES

1. See KOMMUNIST, No 3, 1979, p 22.
2. See PRAVDA, 30 June 1979.
3. [Not included in text.]
4. See TORGOVLYA ROSSII S VOSTOKOM [Trade of Russia with the East], No [illegible], 1925, p 8; "Organizatsiya i deyatel'nost' sovetsko-persidskikh smeshannykh obshchestv" [Organization and Operation of Soviet-Persian Mixed Companies], Baku, Gosudarstvennaya tipografiya "III Internatsional", 1925.
5. See "Ekonomicheskiye otnosheniya sotsialisticheskikh gosudarstv so stranami Afriki" [Economic Relations of Socialist States with the Countries of Africa], Moscow, "Nauka", 197, pp 31, 57; EKONOMICHESKIYE NAUKI, No 1, 1973, p 80.
6. See L.Z. Zevin, "Novyye tendentsii v ekonomicheskom sotrudnichestve sotsialisticheskikh i razvivayushchikhsya stran" [New Tendencies in Economic Cooperation of Socialist and Developing Countries], Moscow, "Nauka", 1970, pp 164-165; V.M. Gorbatov and L.M. Cherkasskiy, "Sotrudnichestvo SSSR so stranami Arabskogo Vostoka i Afriki" [Cooperation of the USSR with Countries of the Arabian East and Africa], Moscow, "Nauka", 1973, p 248; CHEKHOSLOVATSKAYA VNESHNYAYA TORGOVLYA, No 11, 1973, p 17.
7. See "Razvivayushchiyesya strany: problemy ukrepleniya natsional'noy ekonomiki" [Developing Countries: Problems of Strengthening of the National Economy], Moscow, 1977, pp 118-120.
8. See VNESHNYAYA TORGOVLYA SSSR, No 6, 1974, p 20
9. "Materialy XXV s"yezda KPSS" [Materials of the 25th CPSU Congress], Moscow, Politizdat, 1978, p 135.

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INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

NEW BOOK ON MONEY AND CEMA FOREIGN TRADE

Moscow DEN'GI I KREDIT in Russian No 12, Dec 79 pp 71-73

[Review by Prof I.D. Zlobin of the book "Den'gi v sisteme mezhdunarodnykh ekonomicheskikh otnosheniy stran SEV" by Yu.A. Konstantinov. Moscow, Finansy, 1978, 288 pages: "Money at the Service of Integration"]

[Text] The attention of the reader is directed to an interesting monograph disclosing the role of money in the development of international cooperation of CEMA member-countries, whose 30th anniversary was marked in 1979.[1] As a multiplane political-economic and specialized study, this book is of interest both from a theoretical and from a practical point of view. It is devoted to a study of the mutual foreign-economic turnover of CEMA member-countries and money.

On the theoretical plane, the monograph fills in certain measure the gap in the economic literature in the area of analysis of the role of money in the development of interstate economic circulation. This is particularly important in connection with the need for a fuller employment at the present stage not only of internal but also of external factors of reproduction in socialist countries. The fact that the book contains an analysis of the rich experience of financial-exchange relations of socialist countries and also of their relations with developing and capitalist states makes the work most useful in a practical sense.

The book opens (Chapter 1) with a detailed exposition of the nature and role of international economic relations of CEMA member-countries. The author discloses the special features of the present stage of development of international economic relations of CEMA member-countries and shows the interaction of their monetary, exchange and financial systems and the presently existing system of operation of the financial-exchange relations of

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[1] Konstantinov, Yu.A., "Den'gi v sisteme mezhdunarodnykh ekonomicheskikh otnosheniy stran SEV" [Money in the System of International Economic Relations of CEMA Countries]. Moscow, Finansy, 1978, 288 pages.

CEMA countries. The book contains interesting data on the work of the CEMA Permanent Commission for Financial-Exchange Questions and its relations with international collective socialist banks: the International Bank of Economic Cooperation (MBES) and the International Investment Bank (MIB).

The books shows that two international financial-exchange systems--capitalist and socialist--function in the present-day world in parallel; deep-seated changes are taking place in both the one and the other exchange systems. But in one--the capitalist--they are caused by its crisis, in the other--the socialist--by the dynamism of development. The authors discloses the objective laws of these processes, which without doubt is important, inasmuch as it bears a direct relation to the forming of the financial-exchange policy of CEMA member-countries. In this connection, there is traced in the book the evolution of national and world currencies of contemporary capitalism, and an analysis is given of the role of gold in its economics (Chapter 2).

The author justifiably notes that new elements and technical means of settlements have appeared in the arsenal of the resources of the exchange mechanism of contemporary state-monopolist capitalism, but no "monetary" technique or state-monopoly measures make possible overcoming of the consequences of the exchange crisis.

As for credit money, they, as the author justly notes, cannot become so effective as gold. Not having any value of its own, credit money could not serve as an independent form of money not connected with gold. It appeared as the result from commodity-monetary turnover. "With the abolition of gold backing and exchange of bank notes for gold, their issue for payment of state and especially military expenses, credit money essentially degenerates into paper money. Its functioning is subordinated to the laws of circulation of the latter (p 60).

Much attention is given in the book to elucidation of the place and nature of money in the economic system of socialism and the role and functions of the national money of the socialist state (Chapter 3). Here such questions are discussed as the problem of a universal equivalent of commodities under the conditions of socialism; gold and credit money under socialism; money as an instrument of planned operation of the economy; the interconnection and development of the functions of money under socialism; its role in the national economy.

Of special interest are the positions of the book (chapters 4 and 5) on the question of the nature of the transferable ruble, its functions (measures of value, means of payment and means of accumulation), their development with the growth and perfecting of economic cooperation of CEMA member-countries. Disclosing the special features of the functioning of collective exchange--the transferable ruble, the author justly emphasizes that it is possible to correctly understand the nature of the transferable ruble only on the basis of elucidation of a number of general principled political-economic questions, including the question of the new content of commodity-monetary relations and their instruments under socialism, the specific nature of which reflects the collective currency of CEMA member-countries. What is new here is first of all the fact that such relations are planned. "Under the conditions of socialism, an irreversible fact exists in the decisive influence of planned methods on the economic cooperation of CEMA countries. This is the principle reason and the specific nature of the international socialist collective currency. But despite this it does not cease to be money" (p 146). Consequently, in planning foreign-economic relations and settlements, CEMA countries cannot help but take into account the requirements not only of the law of value but also the law of monetary circulation.

The monetary characteristics of the transferable ruble are described with use of a large body of factual material. The author basically correctly reaches the conclusion that the transferable ruble "comes" under the basic characteristics of money, although it does not exist in the form of bank notes but in the form of entries in the accounts of the MBES. Entries in the accounts of MBES, representing cashless monetary turnover, are financial entries. Such entries embody the value of the concrete fruits of human labor--from the most elementary objects of use to the most complex means of production. The transferable ruble is not a commodity certificate but a specific form of international credit money closely connected with commodity circulation (pp 150-151).

Questions relating to the rate of the transferable ruble and expansion of the sphere of functioning of the collective currency, multilateral settlements, which the author examines as a condition of development of the functions of the transferable ruble are discussed substantively. He proceeds from the fact that like other economic categories, the transferable ruble is a historical category. Its functions do not remain fixed once and for all. They develop with the creation of certain conditions and the appearance of concrete tasks and requirements of this or that stage of the process of deepening of socialist economic integration.

It is correctly asserted in the book that the socialist economy does not have alternatives of development of the functions of the transferable ruble: market or planned. It is convincingly shown that one way exists for the development of the functions of the transferable ruble connected with the further growth of planning in its use. "This will make it possible, on the one hand, to activate the role of financial currency instruments, including the transferable ruble, in the process of joint planning activity of CEMA member-countries. On the other hand, financial currency relations, in particular the system of settlement in the collective currency will increasingly become the object of planning. CEMA countries see namely in this rather than in the spontaneous movement of money the chief way of influence of currency factors on the development of economic integration (p 164).

The author reveals in a substantive manner such questions as the influence of the exchange rate on the development of foreign-economic ties; the role of coordinated rates; the exchange rate and equivalency of payments. The book clearly explains the prerequisites for balancing of commodity turnover on a multilateral basis. It provides an analysis of the further improvement of the credit mechanism.

An interesting formulation is provided of the problem of the convertibility of the transferable ruble. The book shows the special features of currency convertibility under socialism, the conditions of its introduction and discloses the means of functioning of the transferable ruble outside the confines of CEMA member-countries and the principles of use of the transferable ruble by third-world countries.

One of the central questions analyzed in the book (Chapter 6) is that of the fundamental directions of economic integration of CEMA member-countries and its financial currency mechanism. Using concrete examples, the author shows its influence in the improvement of cooperation of the CEMA member-countries in the field of planning activity, the solution of fuel-energy and raw-material problems, deepening of the process of international specialization and cooperation of production and scientific-technical integration.

The book concludes (Chapter 7) with an analysis of world-economic ties of CEMA member-countries and the role of currency-credit relations in this process. The book shows the material prerequisites and the influence of the general political climate on intensification of cooperation of CEMA countries with all the countries of the world; it shows the use of the currency-credit mechanism in the establishment and expansion of cooperation of the states of the socialist community with developing countries and the firming of ties with developed capitalist countries.

The book, however, is not free of certain defects, which are to be explained obviously by the complexity and the debatability of many of the examined questions. The book also contains debatable assertions, and certain inaccuracies are to be found. Such "inexactitudes," for example, as the socialist method of production (p 191 and socialist economic formation (p 281) constitute a sad lapse. At the same time, the author correctly begins the book with the assertion that the socialist economy reflects such elements of /communist formation/*(underscoring mine--I.Z.) in their organic unity and interrelation as productive forces, basis and superstructure (p 13). The author is not always consistent in his exposition of questions on the role of gold as a monetary commodity.

Unfortunately in our view, not all the urgent questions of further improvement of financial-exchange relations have been shown. The problem of world

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[*] Slantlines indicate underscoring [translator].

world socialist market and the transition (over the long term) to a single exchange rate of the national currency of each CEMA member-country have not been discussed. At the same time, judging by the Comprehensive Program of Socialist Economic Integration, the time has come not only to formulate this problem but also to work it out. Understandably, these questions are not simple, but for that reason it is all the more important to exchange opinions on ways of solving them.

On the whole, the monograph is distinguished by a deep party character and newness of research. It will be useful for a wide circle of readers, for all those who are interests by the foreign-economic aspects of the work of socialist states, which are connected with the use of international credit and the development of financial-exchange operations of the countries of the socialist community.

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'PRAVDA' REPORTS ZIMYANIN SPEECH AT HIGHER EDUCATION CONFERENCE

LD151117 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Feb 80 p 3 LD

[TASS report: "Higher Education: Tasks and Prospects. All-Union Conference of VUZ Workers"]

[Excerpt] Soviet higher education regards as its crucial task and honorable mission the education of young specialists--active champions of party policy capable of resolving complex scientific and technical problems under present-day conditions.

Constant improvement in the activity of higher education and the increased demands made of the professional training of cadres are called for by the increased scale of our economy and by the rapid development rates of production, science and technology. The party has repeatedly stressed that the country needs businesslike people who combine competence and enterprise with profound party-mindedness and concern for the whole peopple's interests. Higher education is called upon to educate precisely these specialists, who will thoroughly understand the nature of economic policy and think in a broad, statesmanlike manner.

Ways of resolving the tasks arising from the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution "On the Futher Development of Higher Education and on Improving the Quality of Specialists' Training" are being discussed by participants in an all-union conference which opened in Moscow 6 February. Rectors, department chiefs and teachers at VUZ's, students, leading workers at ministries and departments and representatives of party, Komsomol and trade union organizations of republics and oblasts assembled in the Great Kremlin Palace.

In the presidium were comrades A. P. Kirilenko, M. A. Suslov, M. S. Gorbachev, I. V. Kapitonov, V. I. Dolgikh and M. V. Zimyanin. Also present were executives of the CPSU Central Committee, the central committees of union republic communist parties, and of the USSR Council of Ministers and union republic councils of ministers, ministers, prominent scientists and secretaries of the Komsomol Central Committee.

The conference was opened by V. P. Yelyutin, USSR minister of higher and secondary specialized education.

An honorary presidium comprising the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, headed by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, was elected with great enthusiasm.

A speech was delivered by M. V. Zimyanin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who was warmly greeted by those present.

The life of Soviet higher education, he said, is inextricably linked with the great deeds of the Leninist Party and the Soviet people and with our country's prospects for further development. Higher education is the workshop which creates cadres for all sectors of the national economy, science and culture. By its very nature it is intended to be a vector of progress and to train qualified specialists selflessly devoted to the Soviet motherland and the Communist Party and capable of worthily continuing the cause of the older generations of builders of socialism. The fulfillment of current and long-term plans for communist creation depend largely on the results of your noble labor.

To tumultuous applause M. V. Zimyanin conveyed to the conference participants cordial greetings and best wishes from Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers.

The all-union conference of VUZ workers, the speaker noted, is opening at a significant time. The country has entered the final year of the 10th Five-Year Plan. Great work in fulfilling plan targets and implementing the party's economic and social policy elaborated by the 24th and 25th CPSU congresses is in full swing and the foundations are being laid for the next, the 11th, 5-year plan.

Together with all progressive mankind, Soviet people are preparing to celebrate the 110th anniversary of the birth of V. I. Lenin--the great leader of our motherland's working people and the international working class, the brilliant thinker and revolutionary and creator of the Communist Party and Soviet state.

In continuing Lenin's great cause, the cause of October, the Communist Party and all Soviet people check their every step along the path to communism against Lenin's teaching and the principles of Leninism--principles tried and tested by life.

The party and government have recently adopted a series of new measures aimed at considerably increasing the efficiency of social production. This refers above all to CPSU Central Committee and Soviet Government resolutions on questions of improving planning and stepping up the impact of the economic mechanism upon improving production efficiency and work quality, and also the CPSU Central committee, USSR Council of Ministers and AUCCTU resolution on further strengthening labor discipline and reducing cadre turnover in the national economy.

The CPSU Central Committee resolution "On Further Improving Ideological and Political-Educational Work" is closely interconnected with these decisions. At Soviet society's present stage of development the standard of communist awareness and knowledge, people's professional training and their ability to perceive and creatively resolve urgent problems are becoming an important factor in economic development. The rate of social progress and the realization of the indisputable advantages of the socialist social system now depend ever more clearly on the effective utilization of society's intellectual potential and the development of science, culture and education.

The socioeconomic development program put forward by our party, M. V. Zimyanin went on, is the guideline which makes it possible for us to accurately define higher education's main tasks in present conditions.

In the main, higher education is today satisfying society's requirements in terms of the scale of training specialist cadres.

At the same time it is quite natural that the higher the level of development of the socialist society, the more serious are the demands made on higher education and on the professional knowledge and ideological and moral qualities of graduates.

As is known, in the last 2 years the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers have adopted resolutions "On the Further Development of Higher Education and on Improving the Quality of Specialists' Training" and "On Increasing the Effectiveness of Scientific Research Work in VUZ's," which reflect the essence of current demands on higher education, above all the demand for an increase in the VUZs' role in socioeconomic, scientific and technical progress. The present conference provides an opportunity to sum up the first results of the fulfillment of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolutions on higher education and to define measures permitting further successful progress.

Among the whole range of problems in improving higher education, in present conditions priority significance is attached to improving in every way the quality of specialists' training and education and strengthening higher education's links with production and social practice.

Shifting the center of gravity in VUZs' activity to the quality of training and education is an integral part of the implementation of the party's overall course of improving the efficiency and quality of all work and resolving new, large-scale tasks in communist building.

The criterion of the activity of the higher education system in general and of each VUZ individually is how successfully their pupils resolve the ever more complicated tasks of scientific, technical and social progress.

Many of our VUZ's have become real scientific and educational centers where in-depth research into topical scientific problems is organically linked with the training of highly skilled specialists. Among these one can name, first and foremost, our glorious jubillee VUZ's--Moscow State Univeristy, Kazan State University, Moscow Higher Technical School, Vilnyus and Khar'kov universities and other VUZ's.

At the same time we cannot close our eyes to the fact that there are substantial differences in the standard of theoretical and practical training of future specialists between different VUZ's, and sometimes within a single university or institute.

Under present conditions an important reserve for improving the overall standard of Soviet higher education is alinement with leading VUZ's, faculties and departments, bringing everyone up to the standard of the best. In a word, we need to make a definite collective step toward on the basis of higher education's best achievements. It is clear that the task of disseminating leading teaching, scientific, organizational, practical and political-educational experience must be placed on a firm footing and carried out systematically. The best achievements of VUZ work must be reflected promptly in the activity of every VUZ, faculty and department.

We are, ultimately, called upon to form specialists with broad knowledge who are capable of adapting quickly under the conditions of rapid scientific, technical and social progress and who combine theoretical knowledge with the ability to resolve practical questions. In order to achieve this it is necessary to step up specialized scientific research, analyze and generalize experience more actively and elaborate the most effective methodology for teaching, practical studies and education.

Communist education, the speaker stressed, is rightly known as the most important front in the struggle for communism. Higher education, being responsible for the ideological and moral make-up of future generations of the Soviet intelligentsia, is on one of the most crucial sectors of that front. High quality in specialists' training cannot be achieved without systematic Marxist-Leninist education and without stepping up a educational work.

The core of all ideological work in higher education is the teaching of social sciences. The first duty of social science teachers is to reveal clearly and convincingly, on a high theoretical level, the ideological richness and all-conquering force of Marxist-Leninist theory and the tremendous creative contribution made to its development by teh CPSU and its Central Committee heade by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev. The result of VUZ education must be the formation among students of an integral scientific world outlook and the ability to apply their sociopolitical knowledge in practice.

M. V. Kimvanin then dwelt on tasks in the all-round development and strengthening of VUZs' links with the practice of communist building. This means above all joint, purposeful activity by higher education and sectors of the national economy in forming high-level specialists and active fighters for socioeconomic, scientific and technical progress. The significance of this form of cooperation goes far beyond the bounds of the educational process. It is a real means of professional, creative growth for both VUZ teachers and practical workers.

Second, it means improving the skills of workers in production and VUZ teachers and retraining specialists in the latest trends of science and technology. By absorbing and synthesizing all the major achievements of modern science and technology, the VUZ must play a definite part in resolving the complex problem of the steady enrichment and renewal of the knowledge of the specialist working in production. Metaphorically speaking, the VUZ must accompany the specialist throughout his life.

The third very important direction in creative collaboration between VUZ's and enterprises is to improve the effectiveness of scientific research work. Scientists in our best VUZ's are working on resolving major problems of modern science and technology and are pushing back the frontiers of contemporary scientific and technical progress. In the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan about 60,000 developments worked out by the collectives of universities and institutes have been introduced in the national economy. However, VUZs' scientific research potentials are far from being utilized to the full. The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution "On Improving the Effectiveness of Scientific Research Work in VUZ's" contains a whole system of measures to strengthen the role of higher education in the country's system of scientific institutions and to develop it as an intersectorial research complex capable of working in all sectors of knowledge and actively introducing its results into the national economy.

The fourth avenue for strengthening collaboration between production and higher education is that of improving planning in the training, distribution and utilization of specialists.

M. V. Zimyanin described the further improvement of party leadership of VUZ's as an important condition for the successful resolution of the diverse and complex tasks now facing Soviet higher education. He noted that the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution "On the Further Development of Higher Edcuation and on Improving the Quality of Specialists' Training" has armed party committees, VUZ party organizations and all communists working in higher education with a clear program of action. It may be noted with satisfaction that it has been received everywhere as a document of great political and practical significance.

A good example is set in the implementation of party and government resolution on questions of higher education by the party organizations of our leading VUZ centers--Moscow and Leningrad. Here a harmonious system of party leadership of VUZ collectives has grown up, embracing all aspects of their life. Party organizations' attention is focused on vital questions of improving the training and educational process and scientific activity. Under the leadership of Moscow and Leningrad party organs, a scientific basis is being successfully elaborated for determining the requirements of enterprises and sectors of the national economy with respect to specialists and eliminating duplication in cadre training. Their experience must be actively utilized to improve the activity of higher education.

A system of political information, agitation and propaganda based on the comprehensive approach to the ideological, political, labor and moral education of students has already become established in many VUZ centers. The political information system which has been created in the Ukraine merits support. Members and candidate members of the republic's communist party Central Committee Politburo, ministers and other party, Soviet and economic leaders regularly meet with students and teachers at VUZ's.

The practice of holding joint political days has become established everywhere in VUZ party organizations, and this is proving fully justified.

In a number of places special courses on the most topical ideological problems are being introduced into educational plans as an initiative. Thus the teaching of the basics of Marxist-Leninist ethics and special courses in the criticism of anticommunism, reformism and revisionism have been introduced in Belorussian VUZ's, while in Moldavian VUZ's there is a special course on the "Basics of Organizational and Educational Work in the Labor Collective." That experience must be analyzed attentively and comprehensively.

Party committees are devoting serious attention to strengthening VUZs' links with production and developing their cooperation with enterprises, academy of sciences institutes and sectorial scientific research institutes. A number of the country's republics are following the path of creating education, science and production associations based on VUZ's and major industrial enterprises. In Moscow and Leningrad, moreover, base [bazovyye] departments are being created in leading scientific and production associations and scientific institutes, and in Rostov-na-Donu leading VUZ departments are attached to sectors, shops and laboratories with a view to carrying out joint research and eliminating production bottlenecks.

Party committees can do a great deal to improve students' living conditions and leisure. This is indicated, for instance, by experience in Novosibirsk, Rostov-na-Donu and Khar'kov, where student canteen trusts, inter-VUZ clinics and leisure centers have been set up by decisions of party obkoms.

Further intensifying the militancy of VUZ primary party organizations, stepping up the vanguard role of communists and Komsomol members and creating a creative, willing atmosphere and a highly businesslike situation of mutual exactingness in every collective will insure even more successful and fruitful participation by higher education in implementing plans for communist building and an increased role for higher education in our society's life.

In conclusion, M. V. Zimyanin expressed the firm conviction that professors and teachers and all VUZ workers will continue to march in the vanguard of our motherland's socioeconomic, scientific and technical progress, augment their contribution to fulfilling the decisions of the 25th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee November (1979) Plenum and increase still further the prestige of higher education in the world's first socialist country, which is successfully building communism.

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COOPERATION BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES, RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Moscow VESTNIK VYSSHEY SHKOLY in Russian No 10, Oct 79 pp [illegible]

[Article by Prof N. G. Zagoruyko of Novosibirsk University: "Novosibirsk University and the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences"]

[Text] The Decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers "On the Further Development of the Higher School and Improving the Quality of Specialist Training" envisages the implementing of measures to further develop the universities as the leading educational and scientific centers of the higher school. Here an important role is played by their close cooperation with the scientific research institutions of the USSR and Union republic academies of sciences. We would like to describe the experience and forms of this cooperation which has come to exist between our university and the scientific research institutes of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

The university was founded 20 years ago in the Novosibirsk Akademgorodok [Academy Town]. Its creation in the immediate proximity of the research institutions of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences was aimed at unifying the VUZ educational process with the scientific activities of the scientific research institutes and organizing specialist training for research in the basic areas of fundamental research being conducted at these scientific research institutes. In subsequent years this task was basically carried out. The decree of the CPSU Central Committee on the activities of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences (1977) notes that "on the basis of the Novosibirsk State University and the scientific research institutes of the Division, a personnel training system has been created for the scientific centers, the VUZes, industry and agriculture of Siberia."

At present about [illegible],000 undergraduates and gradute students are studying on the 6 faculties (mathematics, physics, natural sciences, geology-geophysics, economics and humanities) of the university. Prominent scientists of the nation are leading their studies. These include academicians and corresponding members of the USSR Academy of Sciences, professors and doctors of sciences.

A fundamental feature in the organization of the educational process is the extended practical research work of the students in the academy institutes, primarily those of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences. These institutes provide all the undergraduates and graduate students with work areas, they give them an opportunity to use unique scientific equipment in their work, and they help to develop new research methods. The undergraduate and graduate students work in the scientific libraries of the same institutes and participate in the seminars, conferences and scientific symposiums held there. They become familiar with the most recent scientific and technical achievements and gain an understanding of the important and unsolved scientific problems.

All of this makes it possible to turn the practical studies of the students into one of the basic forms of educational work, and to unite education with the research process under the supervision of highly skilled leaders in the laboratories of the academy institutes.

The close tie with the scientific research institutes of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences also determines the specific features of the university's scientific research division. The most important feature is that, in actively participating in the work being carried out under the coordination plans of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences, the division, in selecting the contractual subjects, to a significant degree focuses on problems of an applied nature the solution to which stems from the fundamental research being carried out by the academy institutes. Such an approach makes it possible to sharply accelerate the introduction of the fundamental research results into the national economy. Here are several examples.

At the Institute for Thermal Physics of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences under the leadership of the institute's director, Academician S. S. Kutateladze who simultaneously is the head of the university chair of thermal physics, fundamental research is being carried out in the area of the hydrodynamics and heat and mass exchange of vortical gas currents. On the basis of this research, university scientists, together with the collectives of the Institute for Thermal Physics of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the Institute for the Mechanization and Electrification of Agriculture under the Siberian Division of the VASKhNIL [All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences imeni V. I. Lenin], are developing vortical devices for the cleaning and drying of grain which possess a number of advantages over the existing machines (insignificant damage of the grain; the absence of spinning and shaking parts which makes it possible to increase the durability and reliability of the device; technological effectiveness and simplicity of the design; high productivity). Semicommercial units have been designed and manufactured for processing the grain pile, and these are undergoing testing at the Cherepanovskiy Experimental Farm of the Siberian Division of the VASKhNIL.

At the Institute for Semiconductor Physics of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences, under the leadership of its director and the head of the university semiconductor physics chair, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences A. V. Rzhanov, the physicochemical and electronic processes in semiconductors are being studied for the purpose of further developing the elemental basis of modern semiconductor electronics. The results of this research have made it possible for the physics chair to develop a number of methods for the rapid monitoring of the parameters of multilayered semiconductor structures without destroying the samples. An example would be the sounding device for measuring the quantum radiation output of electroluminescent plates for light diodes. At present this development is being widely introduced at the enterprises of the ministries of nonferrous metallurgy and the electronics industry. The economic effect from the use of the given device at one of the enterprises alone exceeds 400,000 rubles.

During the present year, the rector of the university, Academician V. A. Koptyug, and the chairman of the Presidium of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Academician G. I. Marchuk, have signed an agreement "On the Basic Principles for the Interaction of the Novosibirsk State University of the RSFSR Minvuz [Ministry of Higher and Specialized Secondary Education] and the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences." The aim of the agreement is to strengthen the existing principles and forms of cooperation in the training of personnel, and to help in improving the existing training system and seek out new forms which meet the future tasks of developing science, the national economy and culture of Siberia and the Far East.

The agreement encompasses all the basic questions of the rational use of the personnel, including: improving the training of the school-age youth and involving it in the higher education system; improving the system for selecting candidates for the university; university training for research specialists in the basic areas of fundamental research of the scientific research institutes of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences; the organizing of training for the university graduates at the scientific research institutes of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the coordinating of personnel training through graduate studies; studying the future needs for personnel in various areas and levels and the working out of coordinated actions to meet these needs; developing various forms for post-VUZ education, including advanced training for specialists; coordination of scientific research and the related measures; shaping the active sociopolitical position of the young specialists.

A separate section of the agreement deals with the questions of the interaction of the base institutes of the Novosibirsk scientific center with the scientific research division of the university. Provision has been made for using the production areas and equipment of the institutes, for metrological support, and the principles for selecting contractual work have been set out in detail.

In addition there are agreements on socialist and creative cooperation between the university chairs and the corresponding base institutes. These agreements provide for the more concrete questions of cooperation, including: the sending of coworkers from the scientific research deivision of NGU [Novosibirsk State University] to the base institutes for training; the procedure for using the production areas and the equipment, questions related to labor safety and safety equipment, the rules for involving the institute coworkers in university research (on volunteer principles or as the taking on of a second job).

The practice has been introduced of setting up unique educational, scientific and industrinational complexes which include the NGU faculty (chair) and the base scientific research institutes of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences. One such complex includes the university economics faculty, the Institute for the Economics and Organization of Industrial Production of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the Laboratory for Mathematic Economics Research of the Scientific Research Department of the NGU.

Also widely found are the tripartite agreements on socialist creative cooperation between an institute of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences, an university scientific research division and the sectorial scientific research institutes (or enterprise) for conducting joint work. Precisely this type of cooperation provides particularly much for accelerating the process of introducing the results of fundamental research into the national economy.

The agreements on scientific and technical cooperation of the university with the scientific research institutes of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences provide for mutual participation of the scientists in the work of the councils (the councils of the faculties, the university scientific research councils and the councils of the scientific research institutes). For example, the university council for scientific research includes academicians A. G. Aganbegyan (director of the Institute for the Economics and Organization of Industrial Production of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the scientific leader of the Laboraty of Mathematical Economics Research of NGU), N. N. Yanenko (director of the Institute for Theoretical and Applied Mechanics of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences and head of the university chair for flow mechanics) and the corresponding members of the USSR Academy of Sciences [illegible]. A. Alekseyev (deputy director of the Computer Center of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences and professor at NGU), D. G. Knorre (dean of the university faculty of natural sciences and department head at the Organic Chemistry Institute), and S. G. Rautian (deputy director of the Institute for Automation and Electrometry of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences and dean of the NGU physics faculty). All this makes it possible to better coordinate the research and increase the effectiveness of the decisions.

It must be stressed that the work of the university scientific research division is so organized as to aid in every possible way in developing the creative activities of not only the instructors but also the graduate students and the undergraduates. Each year about 300 undergraduates and graduate students participate in research under the contractual plans.

The effectiveness of the work done by the scientific research division during the Tenth Five-Year Plan can be characterized by the following figures. In 1978 alone, 95 percent of the contractual work was carried out on the most important subjects; the average value of the contract or agreement reached 170,000 rubles and this shows the continuing concentration of forces on solving large-scale national economic problems; 68 applications were submitted for inventions and 180 articles were sent in to Soviet and foreign journals; 66 developments were introduced into the national economy, and this made it possible to obtain an economic effect exceeding 11 million rubles.

It can be felt that the cooperation of the university with the scientific institutions of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences is developing successfully, however there still is much to be done in this area. In particular, in following the new decree of the party and government on the higher school, it is essential to more widely involve the academicians, the corresponding members and the other leading scientists in the scientific and pedagogical activities at the university, and at the same time broaden the participation of our coworkers in carrying out work under the plans of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The physical plant of the academy scientific research centers must be more actively used in the course of the educational process and in conducting the research.

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MANPOWER: LABOR, EDUCATION, DEMOGRAPHY

ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION REVIEWED

Moscow VESTNIK VYSSHEY SHKOLY in Russian No 12, Dec 79 pp 3-8

[Article by Prof N. S. Yegorov, USSR deputy minister of higher and specialized secondary education: "The Universities--The Leading Centers in the System of Higher Education"]

[Text] The carrying out of the responsible and complicated tasks raised by the 25th CPSU Congress and the subsequent party and governmental decisions in the area of training highly skilled personnel and providing all the national economic sectors with them has been accompanied by a greater role for the universities in the system of higher education. The Decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers of 1972 outlined special measures aimed at improving the training of specialists with a university education and the turning of these VUZes into the leading educational and scientific centers of the higher school. The successful implementation of these measures undoubtedly has strengthened the influence of the universities on the activities of the other VUZes. The new party and governmental decree "Governing the Further Development of the Higher School and Improving the Quality of Specialist Training" emphasizes the necessity of the further development of the universities not only as educational but also as scientific centers of the higher school.

At present the nation has a total of 67 universities. They have been organized in all the Union and virtually all the autonomous republics and major economic regions. During the Ninth and Tenth five-year plans alone, 16 new universities were opened, basically in the autonomous republics. This is still another vivid proof of the Leninist nationality policy of the CPSU and the enormous concern which it shows for developing the spiritual life of all the peoples of our country.

At present the universities are training over 600,000 students, including [illegible] in the daytime division, and 87,000 in the evening division, and 171,000 by correspondence. The universities provide more than one-tenth of the average annual graduating class of specialists, they conduct the basic portion of the VUZ fundamental research, and train approximately one-third of the candidates of science and a significant portion of the doctors of sciences.

Many universities have already become major educational and scientific centers, successfully combining the training of highly skilled specialists with intensive scientific activities. The realization of the basic principle of the unity of educational and scientific research work makes it possible for them to train specialists in a broad area possessing modern research methods and capable of solving important scientific problems. The development level of scientific activities in the universities is such that in terms of a number of major problems of modern science and technology, they are the head organizations in the country.

The high scientific level of the research conducted by university scientists can be seen, in particular, from the awards which they have won. For example, B. A. Arbuzov, director of the Scientific Research Institute of the Chemical Institute of Kazan' University, received the 1977 Lenin Prize in the area of science and technology for the cycle of studies "New Ways of Synthesizing and Studying the Structure of Organophosphorus Compounds." A collective of scientists from the MGU [Moscow State University] led by Academician Ye. M. Sergeyev received the 1977 USSR State Prize for working out the theory and methods for a regional geological engineering study of inaccessible territories.

The strong potential of universities as scientific centers increases their responsibility to society for developing research primarily on the basic, fundamental problems of the natural and humanitarian sciences. World recognition has been gained by research conducted at our universities on such major areas of mathematics as number theory, algebra and mathematical logic, the theory of differential equations, functional analysis and probability theory. University physicists in recent years have created a theory of nonlinear coherent optics and have worked out a theory of synchrotron radiation, on the basis of which the effect of radiation electron self-polarization was discovered. The biologists of a number of universities have succeeded in achieving significant results in such new, promising areas of science as bioenergetics, molecular genetics, engineering enzymology, and the biochemical bases of taxonomy.

A solution to many problems of the scientific and technical revolution is possible only under the condition of a continuous and organic link of the educational process in the VUZes with intensive scientific research activities. Science has become fully the basis of higher education. And this is particularly characteristic for the organization of educational and scientific activities in the universities. On the one hand, in taking an active part in research, the scientific and pedagogical workers use the obtained results in the teaching process, and acquaint the students with scientific research. On the other hand, the instructors in this manner systematically improve their skills.

In the question of raising the role of universities as scientific centers, graduate studies are of great importance and they train scientific and pedagogical personnel in general scientific disciplines and social sciences both for the needs of the university itself as well as for satisfying the needs of other VUZes and scientific research institutions of the corresponding region. Thus, the graduate studies of Urals Universities in 1976-1978 graduated 184 persons, of whom 158 were sent to work in the Urals VUZes. In 1978, 10 special graduate students were enrolled in graduate studies of Gor'kiy University as the head VUZ of the region. Upon completion of graduate school they will be sent to the VUZes and organizations of the Volga-Vyatka Economic Region. More than one-half of the graduate students at Tomsk University are being trained for work in the western Siberian VUZes. Thus, in 1974, 84 special graduate students were admitted here, 42 in 1975, 25 in 1976, 52 in 1977, and 39 in 1978. Tomsk University has a long-range schedule plan for training scientific workers in its graduate studies in the energy area for the VUZes of western Siberia.

As a rule, the candidates of the doctoral degree in the area of natural, social and humanitarian sciences also receive advice and defend their dissertation at the universities.

An indispensable condition for the successful development of fundamental research, particularly in the area of natural and social sciences, at the universities is their close tie with the scientific institutions of the USSR and Union republic academies of sciences. The forms of such ties are extremely diverse and include: the joint development of various problems; the joint holding of conferences, symposiums, seminars and the publication of scientific works; tours of work by VUZ instructors in scientific institutions; the broad involvement of scientists from the academy institutes in teaching in the universities. The university professors are members of the scientific councils of the academy institutes, the special-problem commissions and the editorial boards of the scientific journals. Summary five-year plans for joint research are worked out. In this regard one can also note the very effective cooperation of Moscow University with many scientific institutions of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Close creative contacts have also been established in a number of the Union republics between the universities and scientific institutions.

Since the university graduates must now play an active role in material production, in the system of public education, science and culture and since in all spheres of their activity they must contribute to ensuring rapid rates of scientific-technical and social progress, cooperation with production, with the enterprises and organizations of industry, agriculture, public health, and so forth is holding an ever broader place in university activities. For example, MGU is effectively cooperating with the Avto-ZIL [Automotive Plant imeni Likhachev] Production Association. In all stages, starting from theoretical research and ending with development, work is carried out under a coordinated program which includes around 60 subjects. Scientists from 11 faculties and scientific research institutes, a number of the general university chairs and laboratories are involved in their elaboration. Over 70 socialist contracts for scientific-technical cooperation (including 36 with enterprises and scientific institutions of L'vov and L'vovskaya Oblast) have been concluded by L'vov University. The contracts provide for the elaboration of new problems, the exchange of scientific and technical information, the conducting of experimental industrial testing, and the prompt introduction of the research results into production.

Very important in the given aspect is the fact that for carrying out the diploma and course work by the university students, ever wider use is being made of the physical plant of the academy and sectorial scientific institutions, as well as the production associations and enterprises. Also the scientists and experienced production workers are being involved in leading production and prediploma practical studies, the diploma work of the students, as well as for participating in scientific expeditions.

From this viewpoint the experience of Dagestan University is of interest and merits support. It organizes traveling sessions of the state examination commissions to enterprises where diploma work being carried out upon the orders of these enterprises is defended. For example, the public defense of work by graduates of the economics faculty was held in the presence of bookkeepers, economists, engineering-technical and other production specialists.

The chair is of decisive significance in raising the scientific prestige of the university and in establishing creative ties with the other organizations. With good reason the new decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers on the further development of the higher school poses the task of strengthening the role of the chair as the main group of the VUZ which defines the content and unity of the training, scientific and indoctrinational process. Obviously in the universities a special place must be given to the support chairs for social sciences and the inter-VUZ chairs. The latter (that is, the chairs of ethics, aesthetics, Soviet law, industrial safety, and so forth) are created, as a rule, precisely on the basis of the universities. Experience shows that the improving of their activities contributes to the activating and coordinating of research work by the scientists of several VUZes, and to raising the professional and scientific-theoretical level of teaching the corresponding academic disciplines.

If one were to speak about a further improvement in the activities of the universities as educational centers per se (although we must not, we are convinced, separate this role from the role of scientific centers, and their functions in either sphere are closely interrelated), at present, as was stated above, many universities are already such centers. They successfully solve the problems of training high skilled personnel for science, culture, education and the sphere of material production. But still they have their specific features. Here scientific research in the area of pedagogics, psychology, modern teaching methods and the problems of the communist indoctrination of students should be developed first and they are developing rapidly. Largely due to this the universities have acquired a good deal of experience in improving the content and methods of instruction and in introducing the methods of the scientific organization of the educational process.

A university education has always been characterized by the fact that it has given and does give the young specialists lasting skills of systematic work with scientific and special literature and a constant demand for such work. At present this is particularly important because to teach the future specialists to add to their knowledge independently and to learn continuously is a fundamental task for the faculty of a modern higher school.

The USSR Ministry of Higher and Specialized Secondary Education is closely concerned with improving the curricula and syllabuses for the university specialties, in endeavoring to continuously strengthen the fundamental training of the students, to introduce the most recent achievements of science, production and the practices of communist construction into the educational process, in organizing the educational and production work of the students considering the needs of the national economy and the accelerating of scientific and technical progress.

For these purposes the subject and content of the special courses and seminars are constantly being improved, and the students are specializing considering the most recent scientific achievements and the practices of communist construction.

The development of universities as educational centers to a significant degree is manifested also in the following areas: The preparation and publishing of educational literature and documents for the higher and secondary institutions of learning; the holding of educational conferences, meetings, symposiums and permanent and periodic seminars; providing help to new universities and other VUZes of the corresponding region in organizing educational work, the educational process and scientific research; the organization of advanced training institutes and faculties under the universities, and visiting tours by instructors; the participation of instructors in giving lectures and conducting other exercises--auditorium and nonauditorium--in other VUZes; the establishing of close educational ties with the general education schools and the providing of help to them; the organization of academic-scientific, academic-educational and academic-scientific-indoctrinational complexes on the basis of the universities.

The university also has the basic portion of duties in the area of setting up author groups and preparing academic, educational literature and documents on the natural, general scientific and humanitarian sciences. For example, the instructors of the RSFSR universities in 1976 alone prepared 480 textbooks and teaching aids and 347 monographs. During the Ninth Five-Year Plan the scientists of Belorussian universities published over 450 titles of textbooks, teaching aids and other literature, and during the 4 years of the Tenth Five-Year Plan, 294 titles. In 1977-1978, Tomsk University published 144 such works. The university instructors review a significant portion of the monographs, textbooks, teaching aids, procedural instructions and programs prepared in other VUZes. For example, in 1978 Rostov University reviewed over 100 works received from other institutions of learning.

The university has a great role to play in holding educational conferences, meetings and seminars on the questions of improving the teaching of individual disciplines, the sociopsychological bases of communist indoctrination, and so forth. More than 10 educational meetings and seminars were held, for example, in 1978 on the basis of Gor'kiy University.

Also generally recognized is such an important educational function of the universities as organizing advanced training institutes and faculties, resident training and retraining of the instructors from other VUZes. More than 3,000 instructors and VUZ specialists each year improve their skills at the advanced training institutes and faculties of Moscow University alone. Kiev, Belorussian, Novosibirsk, Rostov and certain other universities are also successfully carrying out analogous responsible tasks. As an example, the IPK [Advanced Training Institute] organized in 1973 under the Belorussian University for the instructors of social sciences has trained more than 16,500 persons from 160 VUZes. Each year the IPK admits over 400 persons. Each year around 300 social science instructors from the VUZes of Kazakhstan and Central Asia improve their skills at the IPK of the Kazakh University.

In a majority of instances precisely the universities are entrusted with the retraining of personnel in the new scientific areas. And here first of all we must point to the Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Rostov universities.

An important type of help from the leading universities to the young ones as well as to the other VUZes is the regular trips of the most experienced instructors here for the purpose of giving lectures. Hundreds of professors and the most skilled docents of Moscow and Leningrad universities each year travel to various VUZes for giving lectures and performing the duties of the chairmen of the GEK [state examination committee]. For the purposes of strengthening contacts and concretizing cooperation agreements, 98 leaders and instructors from the leading universities traveled to the young RSFSR universities.

A special word must be said that at present increased demands are being placed upon the quality of university training for the teachers of the specialized secondary schools and general education schools along with the scientific and pedagogical workers. And the link of the universities and the schools is not restricted to the training of teachers, although the latter is of very great significance for all the life of the nation and for the universities themselves. The help of the universities is also expressed in the preparation of school textbooks and educational literature. Here a primary role is given to the leading universities, Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Belorussian. But the other universities also actively cooperate with the general education school, particularly after the well-known decree of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers on the work of the general education school (1977). Over the last 2 years, for example, the chairs of Dagestan University have prepared 36 school textbooks for publication on teaching methods as well as a practical course on Russian, the literature of the peoples of Dagestan, and other disciplines.

Of importance in this sense is the fact that virtually all the universities maintain permanent ties with their graduates, and each year conduct educational conferences for teachers, competitions and olympiads for student youth in various areas of knowledge. The instructors systematically travel to the areas where the graduates of their VUZes are employed and provide them with methodological aid. The leading university instructors conduct exercises at the FPK [advanced training faculty] of the school principals. The teachers are also involved in scientific work of the university chairs.

Mention should also be made of the experience of the young Ivanovo University in the area of strengthening ties with the general education school. This work is based on a special plan for creative cooperation between the university and the public education bodies of Ivanovskaya Oblast for 1978-1980. It includes a range of measures aimed at improving the quality of teacher training and the effectiveness of their work. The group includes measures which are applied starting with the appointing of future teachers to the university and ending with the providing of educational aid to the school instructors.

Regardless of the successes achieved by the universities in all the main areas of their activities, the quality of university education and the level of activities of individual universities still lag markedly behind the needs of life, and the development of a number of this type of created institution of learning is occurring slowly. Some of these universities have still kept the traits of pedagogical VUZes, they do not have a sufficient number of highly skilled instructors, and need a substantial strengthening of physical plant. In a number of such universities, the training process and the educational documents are being slowly improved. The strengthening of the fundamental training of the students has still little involved the specialty disciplines. Scientifically sound forms and methods of instruction must be rapidly introduced into the educational process. For this reason the new Decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers "On the Further Development of the Higher School and Improving the Quality of Specialist Training" paid particular attention to improving the activities of the new universities. Their main task is to reach the level of the leading universities as rapidly as possible in terms of the specialist training level and the organizing of scientific work. Here of greatest importance will be the establishing and strengthening of systematic professional ties with the leading universities. One such form of these ties is the creation of large regional academic and educational centers on the basis of the leading universities. Even now the centers set up on the basis of Perm', Irkutsk, Gor'kiy and Voronezh universities can rightly be termed such.

The young (and not only the young) universities will be given substantial aid by the strengthening provided in the new decree of the physical plant of these VUZes and their scientific and pedagogical personnel. There are also plans to "adjust the list of specialties and student contingents of the universities considering the training of the personnel for the entire public education system, science and culture, industry and agriculture."

Finally, the universities have much to do for further strengthening the ideological and political training of the students. They must improve the level of the study of Marxist-Leninist theory and the historical experience of the CPSU, the works of Comrade L. I. Brezhnev and the other party leaders.

Certainly, the greater demands placed upon the ideological and political indoctrination of the future specialists and upon the development of a broad scientific study of the problems of communist indoctrination under the conditions of developed socialism and other social problems involves primarily the social science teachers. And it must be said that our university chairs have every opportunity for working out these problems, for generalizing experience and for raising the level of the indoctrinational and theoretical work.

The measures to be undertaken in this area are aimed at raising the responsibility of all the university chairs for indoctrinational activities. These activities should be based upon the Decree of the CPSU Central Committee "On Further Improving Ideological and Political Indoctrination Work," and the speech of Comrade M. A. Suslov at the All-Union Conference of Ideological Workers (October 1979).

Thus, it is a question of carrying out the program for the all-round rise in university education, a program which has a comprehensive character and is of fundamental significance for the development of the entire higher school. In the process of implementing it it is essential to determine the ways for fully carrying out the university principles of training personnel in those institutions of learning which in the future must maintain areas of instruction not inherent to the universities. It is also essential to work out a specific plan for the development of the universities and this plan will provide for the strengthening of their physical plant and the creation of conditions for improving the quality of their scientific and pedagogical personnel.

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IMPROVEMENT NEEDED IN LABOR NORMS, STANDARDS IN INDUSTRY

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[Article by Ye. Smirnov: "Labor Norms and Standards -- What Should They Be?"]

[Text] V. I. Lenin, the founder of our state, pointed out when defining the basic principles of communist building that until the highest phase of communism is reached, it will be necessary for society and the state to exercise the strongest control over the measure of labor and the measure of consumption.

Under conditions of mature socialism this Leninist principle does not lose its force; by contrast, it receives further development. It is embedded in the Basic Law of our country, the USSR Constitution. The Constitution says that the source of growth in public wealth and the well-being of the people and each individual Soviet citizen is the exploitation-free labor of Soviet people. Following the socialist principle, "From each according to his abilities; to each according to his labor," the state monitors the measure of labor and consumption (Article 14), which finds concrete expression in various labor norms. Fulfillment of these norms makes it possible to evaluate the labor contribution of each worker and determine his right to receive a definite amount of the wealth created by society.

In a developed socialist society it is exceptionally important to insure comprehensive records of labor inputs and to evaluate objectively the personal contribution of each person to the overall results of the work of the collective, from the brigade to the enterprise as a whole. This is by no means an easy job given the vastly enlarged scale of production. And there is no more efficient means, no more universally applicable tool, than well-organized labor norms. The establishment of sound norms makes it possible to organize effective records of labor results, monitor the measure of labor and consumption, and thereby greatly increase the labor potential of our society.

Correctly calculated technically substantiated norms that take account of the level of engineering attained, progressive technology, leading methods of organizing production and labor, and the rise in the technical and general level of sophistication of employees, make it possible to determine the essential labor inputs for manufacture of output and insure rational distribution of labor in society and the establishment of correct proportions among workers in different occupations and among sections, shops, enterprises, and sectors. Universal introduction of such norms creates conditions for equal intensity of labor not only in identical, but also in differing jobs; it is the essential foundation of socialist competition among working people and collectives. By the same token, norms are an effective measure of labor in society. At the same time good organization of work to establish labor norms promotes correct distribution of material and nonmaterial benefits in the society because the norm is closely tied to earnings, and earnings have a significant impact on the level of people's consumption.

If earnings are to be truly earned, they must correspond to labor inputs. Norms aim precisely at evaluating the contribution of each worker to the results of public production. Of course, norms are not the only factor working in this direction. Correct application of salary schedules and rates and various forms of material incentive, in particular bonus systems, and steady refinement of them are extremely important here. But if norms are not progressive, even effective incentive systems will not yield good results. Only simultaneous introduction of thoroughly substantiated norms and carefully planned wage systems will make it possible to observe correct proportions between growth in wages and labor productivity and consistently follow the principles of material interest.

Following Lenin's teachings, our party devotes considerable attention to improving the labor norm system, giving party organizations and economic managers specific jobs that correspond to the demands of each stage of the country's socioeconomic development. In the current phase these tasks are defined by the historic decisions of the 24th and 25th CPSU Congresses. They also found reflection in the specific measures set forth in the decree of the USSR Council of Ministers and AUCCTU entitled "Steps To Improve the Establishment of Labor Norms," which was adopted in 1973.

It is commonly known that the situation with setting labor norms was discussed by the CPSU Central Committee in 1978. After reviewing how earlier party and government decisions were being carried out, the Central Committee demanded that economic, party, and trade union organizations take effective steps to continue improving the system.

Party and government documents have clearly outlined the areas of work to improve the establishment of labor norms right at the enterprises and organizations. These lines of action include broadening the sphere of labor norms by every means; significantly increasing the proportion of technically substantiated norms, especially those calculated on the basis of intersectorial and sectorial standards; timely replacement of outdated norms with new ones when organizational-technical steps are taken that raise labor productivity; revision of outdated norms for jobs whose labor-intensity has been decreased by general improvement in the organization of production and labor; increasing the volume of production; enhancing professional skills and improving the production habits of employees. It is stipulated that the mutual obligations of the administration, workers, and employees to reduce the labor-intensiveness of output, raise the level of the norm system, and increase labor productivity should be included in collective agreements. Material incentive measures were also envisioned for the transition to work on technically substantiated output, time, and service norms.

As a result of the steps taken, significant advances have been made in establishing labor norms in recent years, especially during the period of introduction of the new wage conditions in the production sectors of the economy. These advances are widely known. The proportion of workers whose labor is normed was greatly enlarged, from 33.2 percent in 1974 to 67.4 percent in 1979 for time-rate workers, and from 13.9 to 60.6 percent for engineering-technical workers and employees. The quality of the norms in use rose also. According to statistical report data more than 80 percent of the workers who have labor norms have technically substantiated norms.

This is largely a result of the intensified development of intersectorial and sectorial standards; about 3,000 collections of such standards were in effect in industry at the beginning of 1979. It is noteworthy that more than 86 percent of all the technically substantiated norms used in industry were calculated on the basis of intersectorial and sectorial standards.

Another thing that cannot be overlooked is the following. The major steps taken to improve the norm system when introducing new wage conditions and the revision of many outdated norms previously in effect made it possible, despite a significant rise in wage rates (an average of 28-30 percent) to maintain a higher rate of growth in labor productivity. Between 1973 and 1975 labor productivity rose 19.5 percent while wages were up 14.1 percent. The improvement in the norm system during this period is also illustrated by the fact that before institution of the new wage conditions norms in industry were fulfilled by an average of 135 percent, going up to as much as 152 percent in machine building, but after introduction of the new norms the figure dropped to 118-119 percent.

Many enterprises have been able to institutionalize the advances made during the period of introduction of the new wage conditions. The Elektrostal'tyazhmash [Elektrostal' Heavy Machinery] Prodution Association can serve as an example. They give constant attention to improving the labor norm system in both primary and subsidiary shops, review norms at the proper time, introduce intersectorial and sectorial standards broadly, and refine the material incentive system. As a result, this association overfulfilled its assignments for raising labor productivity each year. Between 1976 and 1978 the growth of labor productivity was about 20 percent while the wages paid to personnel increased by 13.5 percent. The entire increase in production volume was obtained by raising labor productivity.

The situation is similar at the Kiev Tochelektropribor [Precision Electrical Instrument] Production Association, where labor norms cover 95 percent of the employees. The proportion of technically substantiated norms has been raised to 87.2 percent there, and 80 percent of all personnel work by norms calculated according to intersectorial standards. Virtually all the workers of the association fulfill their norms. The quality of the norms is rising, as a result of which the labor-intensity of output is dropping and labor productivity is going up.

Many ministries are carrying on substantial organizational work toward further improvement in the labor norm system. The Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems and the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry are among the leaders here; the practices they follow have been studied and summarized by the USSR State Committee on Labor and Social Problems and recommended for application in other industrial sectors. Examples of successful work to improve the labor norm system could also be taken from other sectors.

At the same time, if a careful analysis is made of data by sectors and enterprises, it will be found, as is often the case, that concealed behind the average figures are serious shortcomings that permit the conclusion that norm systems by no means always correspond to the challenges of intensifying production and improving its efficiency laid down by the 25th CPSU Congress and that, in many cases, existing norms are not a true measure of labor.

Suffice it to say that 3.7 million time-rate workers and more than 2.1 million engineering-technical personnel and employees in industry still remain outside the labor norm sphere. About one-fifth of piece-rate workers work on experimental statistical norms which not only fail to mobilize people to look for and utilize existing possibilities of raising labor productivity, but often simply cover up shortcomings in production organization and "compensate" for losses in wages associated with them.

The labor norm systems of many industrial enterprises and even entire sectors still fail to meet current requirements, for example in construction and road machine building. About half of the time-rate workers, engineering-technical personnel, and employees at enterprises of this sector do not, for practical purposes, work on labor norms. For piece-rate workers the proportion of technically substantiated norms is slightly more than 70 percent, and about half of the workers fulfill their norms by percentages of 120 or more. There are even enterprises where norms are fulfilled by 150-170 percent and more.

Are such norms able to inspire workers to strive for high labor productivity? Of course, they are not. It is no accident that the growth rate of labor productivity at enterprises of the sector is low; in 1977 11.1 percent of the enterprises did not fulfill their assignments for this index, and in 1978 it was 15.9 percent. At the same time, bonuses paid rose 7.7 percent in 1978 compared to 1977.

There are also serious problems with labor norms at enterprises of the Ministry of Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances, where technically substantiated norms are being introduced very slowly. In 1976 they covered 57.6 percent of piece-rate workers, which rose to 58.8 percent in 1977 and just 61.1 percent in 1979. In this sector, as in the Ministry of Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building, half of the workers fulfill norms by more than 120 percent and one out of eight has a fulfillment figure of 150 percent or higher. The proportion of experimental statistical norms is high in the Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building (33.0 percent), the Ministry of Electrical Equipment Industry (33.5 percent), and the Ministry of Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Fodder Production (39.9 percent), as well as certain other sectors.

In many cases the norms recorded in enterprise reports as technically substantiated prove, upon careful checking, to be nothing of the sort. For example, statistical reports show that 77-85 percent of the workers at industrial enterprises of the Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises, and Ministry of Industrial Construction work on technically substantiated norms, but at the same time 36-38 percent of the workers fulfill them by 150 percent or more. In the Ministry of Power and Electrification the average rate of norm fulfillment is about 140 percent and almost one-third of the workers fulfill norms by 150 percent or more. At reinforced concrete construction component enterprises of the USSR Ministry of Building Materials Industry 82.2 percent of the norms are called technically substantiated, while the average level of fulfillment is more than 140 percent and 35 percent of the workers fulfilled the norms by 150 percent or more. How can such norms be called technically substantiated?

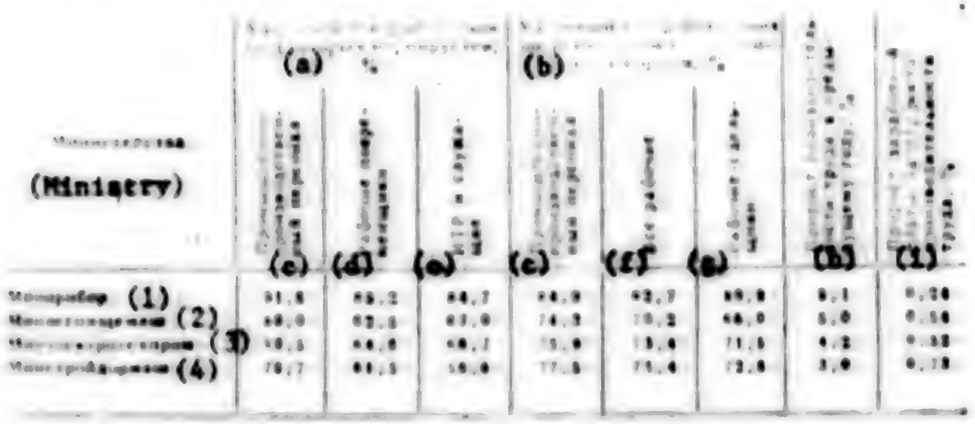
Opportunities for improving the norm system in light industry are not being used fully. Although the sector has a high proportion of technically substantiated norms for piece-rate workers (88.9 percent), the level of fulfillment for them has reached 119.7 percent and 38.5 percent of the workers fulfill norms by more than 120 percent (one out of 10 has a figure of 150 percent or more). Nonetheless, just one-tenth of the norms were revised at enterprises of the sector in 1978. This is probably why the increase in wages in the sector in 1978 was 1.1 percent compared to a one percent rise in labor productivity.

We encounter a similar situation in a review of the situation with labor norms by region. For example, report data indicate that about 80 percent of the norms in effect in the Estonian SSR are technically substantiated, and furthermore quite a few output norms have been revised. Nonetheless, fulfillment of norms at industrial enterprises of the republic reaches 133 percent, and almost half of the workers fulfill norms by 130 percent or more, with more than one out of five workers reaching a figure of more than 150 percent. For the USSR as a whole the average fulfillment of norms in the textile industry is 116.7 percent and for the garment industry it is 120 percent. In the Latvian SSR fulfillment of norms for these sectors is 124.9 and 119.6 percent, and in Estonia the figures are 122.8 and 136.8 percent. While the average norm fulfillment in the wood products industry is 125.4 percent, norms at enterprises of this sector are fulfilled by 135 percent in the Georgian SSR and Kazakh SSR, 142.1 percent in the Tadzhik SSR, and up to 144.3 percent in Estonia.

All this illustrates that certain economic managers are trying to conceal major weaknesses in the organization of production and labor by understated norms. Instead of introducing new equipment and progressive technology, refining production and labor organization, improving working conditions, and on this basis raising labor productivity and increasing wages, they put off the revision of outdated norms, causing an artificial and unsound exaggeration of wages. Shortcomings in labor norm systems are often aggravated by the introduction of economically unsound bonus systems which change bonuses into virtually automatic pay supplements.

Such actions are enormously damaging to the national economy. Understated norms do not stimulate the fight against lost working time, slow down the incorporation of new equipment and introduction of progressive technology, obstruct improvements in the organization of production and labor, and prevent correct distribution of people in production and rational use of labor resources. Because they are far from precise as a measure of labor, they hamper the organization of socialist competition and development of the creative activism of the workers in identifying ways to raise labor productivity.

The ratio between growth in labor productivity and growth in wages is being violated as the result of inattention to the organization of labor norm setting. This conclusion can be drawn on the basis of 1978 figures for various machine building ministries (see table below). The Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and



(Ministry)	(a) %			(b) %			(h)	(i)
	(c)	(d)	(e)	(c)	(f)	(g)		
(1)	91.8	95.2	84.7	94.0	92.7	89.9	9.1	0.30
(2)	68.0	82.5	67.0	74.3	70.2	66.0	5.0	0.56
(3)	50.5	84.6	60.7	75.9	73.4	71.5	4.2	0.38
(4)	76.7	81.5	56.6	77.5	75.4	72.8	3.9	0.78

Key: (a) Percentage of Employees Whose Labor Is Normed;
(b) Percentage of Employees Working on Technically Substantiated Norms;
(c) Industrial Production Personnel;
(d) Time-Rate Workers;
(e) Engineering-Technical Personnel and Employees;
(f) All Workers;
(g) Piece-Rate Workers;
(h) Growth in Labor Productivity Relative to Preceding Year, %;
(i) Growth in Wages per Percentage Point of Growth in Labor Productivity, %;
(1) Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems;
(2) Ministry of Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances;
(3) Ministry of Electrical Equipment Industry;
(4) Ministry of Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building.

Control Systems was taken for comparison in the table. As indicated above, this ministry has organized work on labor norms well, but in the other three ministries this work cannot be considered satisfactorily.

The figures in the table show that the rate of growth in labor productivity is lower where the labor norm system is poorly organized. The index of growth in wages per percentage point of growth in labor productivity deserves special attention because it is the most striking reflection of the ratio between labor and consumption. As we see, this index is 2-3 times greater at the machine building industries, owing to shortcomings in labor norm systems, than at the Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems, where labor norm work is done on a much higher level. It should be added that the average monthly earnings of employees at the three machine building enterprises are higher than at the Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems and their enterprises pay many more piece-rate pay supplements and bonuses. Thus, the socialist principle of payment according to labor is frequently violated in practice and instead of serving as a true measure of labor and consumption, norms become a kind of "regulator" of earnings, facilitating an artificial increase in earnings without a sufficient link to results of labor and regardless of the degree of labor intensity and productivity. This is certainly intolerable.

What we have said about shortcomings in labor norm systems in industry applies even more strongly to the nonproduction sphere. In these sectors, which lack the rich experience industry has, there are no norms at all for a considerable share of the employees. The staff schedules of many enterprises and organizations in nonproduction sectors are established without the necessary scientific substantiation and the standards that exist in certain sectors have been in effect for decades and are very out of date, which leads to disruption of proportions in distribution of labor, surplus workers at many organizations, and bloating in the administrative apparatus. Measures are now being developed in all sectors of the economy and regions to improve labor norm systems on the basis of party and government instructions. In this connection we would like to raise a number of issues for discussion. In our view, consideration of these matters would help achieve tangible results in improving labor norm management.

First we will take up the question of technically substantiated norms. What should they be? At many enterprises, and even in some whole sectors, most norms are considered technically substantiated, but reports indicate that they are significantly overfulfilled (examples were given above for certain sectors). But here are some figures to reflect upon: for industry as a whole 82.5 percent of piece-rate workers work on technically substantiated norms, calculated for the most part on the basis of intersectorial and sectorial standards. However, the average norm fulfillment is 120.4 percent, and more than 40 percent of the workers fulfill norms at better than this level, while 11.7 percent of the workers are above 150 percent.

All these facts and figures force one to ask whether all the technically substantiated norms today are giving full consideration to possibilities of better use of existing equipment, optimal labor organization, and progressive practices.

On this subject, Hero of Socialist Labor A. I. Kurylev, lathe operator and production innovator from the Murom Plant imeni S. Ordzhonikidze, who began the mass movement for revision of norms at the initiative of the workers, spoke very plainly and simply in his television talk. When asked how he is able to revise technically substantiated norms, he answered that these norms are highly averaged. And while they do reflect to some degree the potential of equipment at its current level of incorporation, they do not take adequate account of other reserves, among them the possibilities offered by progressive labor procedures and techniques and by improving the organization of production and labor. It is these reserves and possibilities that he and his comrades are utilizing.

Intersectorial and sectorial standards contain an equal or, more likely, greater degree of averaging because they include data for a sector or even several sectors. This applies particularly to the standards being developed in the sectors for number of employees. Without thinking we relate all employees, whose number is determined by these standards, to those working on technically substantiated norms. However, these norms are actually experimental statistical norms. According to the current methodology they are based on report figures on numbers of administrative personnel by administrative functions. And although the enterprises selected for this are those with the smallest numbers, factors affecting the numbers for each function are determined, and mathematical means and correlation techniques are used to establish patterns, nonetheless they are still based on statistical material, not a careful study of the labor process and analysis of labor organization and the potential of the equipment. In other words, this technique does not determine the direct, scientifically substantiated labor inputs for performance of particular jobs. Moreover, because different bases are used for calculation in different sectors, discrepancies have occurred in standards for analogous functions.

For 10 years now we have been beating around the bush on this methodology without any noteworthy progress whatsoever in establishing labor norms for engineering-technical personnel and employees. The method of directly establishing labor norms for them is little used. But it is certainly time to make a careful study, analysis, and refining of the labor processes of employees and the organization of their labor and, on this basis, establish precise work procedures for the performance of engineering-technical personnel and employees. Also on this basis, using analysis and calculation, we must establish scientifically substantiated, progressive standards and technically substantiated time (service) norms. However, according to prognoses, even by 1990 only 30 percent of the work of all employees in industry can be regulated by time standards and norms, while for the national economy as a whole it will be even less, just 23.2 percent.*

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* Pavlenko, A.P., "Sovershenstvovaniye Normirovaniya Truda ITR i Sluzhashchikh" [Improving the Setting of Labor Norms for Engeerin Technical Personnel and Employees"], Moscow, Ekonomika, 1978, p 33.

The current averaged technically substantiated norms and standards, whether they are for workers or employees, do not always stimulate them to strive for high production indexes. Such norms and standards can only bring those who have fallen behind up to an average level; they do not push the average workers themselves forward and they inhibit the enterprise of progressive workers and employees because they orient them to average indexes.

The readers should not form the impression that the author of this article opposes technically substantiated norms and standards. He certainly does not. From our standpoint, they require a different approach. They should not be averaged figures, but rather maximally progressive, calculated using all the capabilities of equipment and progressive technology, optimal organization of labor and production, and the best work methods and procedures. Such technically substantiated, one might even say scientifically substantiated, norms and standards should be continuously refined and maintained at a progressive level for their entire period of operation. Only such norms and standards, which present optimal requirements for everyone, those who are behind, average workers, and leaders, can stimulate each individual worker and each labor collective to strive for the highest indexes. And of course, only such norms permit correct labor payment. They are the only true measure of labor and consumption.

In this respect, the experience of the Volga Automotive Plant is instructive. They did not adapt their norms to the organizational-technical conditions of any particular period. Time norms there are introduced with an anticipatory calculation for improvement in the use of equipment and intended refinements of technology and the organization of production and labor in conformity with organizational-technical measures envisioned by plans. Experience has shown that such norms modify the attitude of workers, management personnel, and administrative workers toward the job. They stimulate workers to show creativity on the job and improve their professional skills. They inspire labor organizers and other specialists to improve technology, the production service and support system, and other production management elements.

It would seem that this procedure for setting norms should be employed at all enterprises, and also in the sectors when working out norms and standards. But there is a psychological barrier for managers, norm specialists, and trade union workers to overcome, to free themselves from old, stereotyped ways of setting norms. This barrier is the fear that the number of persons not fulfilling norms may increase at first. At the same time as these norms are introduced, a wage system similar to that in effect at the Volga Automotive Plant should be employed to stimulate faster implementation of organizational-technical measures and incorporation of progressive norms.

The fact that the Volga Automotive Plant has adopted time-rate wages in no way signifies that this approach is not applicable for setting progressive norms for piece-rate workers. The forms of supplementary payment used at the Volga Automotive Plant may also be used for piece-rate jobs, probably not in the form of supplements to wage rates but rather as a change in piece rates. Incidentally, in the early 1970's the State Committee on Labor and Social Problems and the AUCCTU authorized two plants to experiment with a system of changing rates depending on the degree of intensity of norms, but this experience has been undeservedly forgotten.

We would also like to emphasize the moral aspect of introducing truly progressive norms. They permit richer labor competition among people and a true evaluation of each person's achievements, qualifications, and speed and productivity at work. In addition, establishing progressive norms will make it possible to reveal shortcomings in the organization of production, disclose losses of working time, and really organize the fight to eliminate them.

In reviewing the situation with establishing norms, one becomes convinced that one of the reasons that enterprises have not introduced progressive norms vigorously enough is flaws in planning. After all, no matter how much we may agitate for good norms and standards and call for them to be used, progress will be slow if our arguments are not supplemented by economic pressure, unless these norms and standards permeate our entire planning system from top to bottom.

Everyone knows that K. Marx called time economy the "first economic law on the basis of collective production." Utilization of this law depends largely on introducing indexes of labor inputs in planning practice. It is progressive norms and time (output, service) standards that should be the scientific foundation for calculating production indexes and, especially, for determining the number of persons employed and the wages fund. The same thing can be said with respect to labor productivity.

Ignoring scientifically substantiated labor norms and standards and determining plan indexes based on the level already attained will lead to disproportion and errors in determining the number of persons employed and the wages fund in sectors and at enterprises and will enlarge the gap between the number of work positions and available labor resources. With such planning many economic managers will have a chance, despite poor systems of labor norms and low rates of growth in labor productivity, to increase the earnings of their employees and themselves receive large bonuses. This would appear to be the main reason for the incorrect wage ratios that often occur among employees by sector, regions, enterprises, and occupations. It is noteworthy that scientifically (from an economic and social standpoint) substantiated norms of growth in wages per percentage point of growth in labor productivity still have not been worked out. We say that growth in labor productivity should exceed growth in wages. But we do not know how much, and our plans thus far have said nothing on the subject.

Determined steps are now being taken to improve the planning of labor indexes and use the economic mechanism more effectively. This will permit a significant increase in the efficiency of public production and, on this basis, insure a steady rise in the country's economy and the people's standard of living. The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers decree entitled "Improving the Planning and Strengthening the Impact of the Economic Mechanism on Raising Production Efficiency and Work Quality" defines the system of indexes and economic standards ratified for industrial ministries, associations, and enterprises in the five-year plans (with a breakdown by years). Among them are indexes that relate directly to norms of labor inputs: growth in net (normative output); growth in labor productivity; the standard of wages per ruble of output; the ceiling on number of workers and employees.

Through the use of long-term standards for wages per ruble of output it is intended to strengthen the dependence of wages paid to each employee and labor collectives as a whole on growth in labor productivity and improvement in the final results of production work.

In conformity with the decree, these standards must be determined on the basis of technically substantiated labor norms, insuring that labor productivity increases faster than wages. Production associations and enterprises are given the right to give pay supplements to employees and engineering-technical personnel using the wage fund savings obtained as compared to the established standard of planned wages fund. To stimulate initiative in the introduction of technically substantiated labor norms and timely revision of them a one-time reward is envisioned for workers from the savings received as the result of revision of these norms.

The program of action that has been laid out marks a major new step in refinement of our economic mechanism. But its realization will demand smoothly coordinated work by all state administrative bodies, ministries and departments, and their scientific research institutes. Specifically, precise methodological and normative guidelines on successful use of indexes of labor inputs in planning must be developed as quickly as possible. Here again the question arises of the quality of standards for establishing labor norms for workers and employees.

Labor norms are a very important tool in managing the economy, and they must be skillfully used. The better these norms are and the more widely they are used in planning production indexes and evaluating the work of laboring people and their collectives, the more effective our control over the measure of labor and consumption will be and the more steadily the principle of payment according to labor can be implemented in practice. This will foster greater initiative among the broad masses of working people in the struggle to carry out the decicisions of the 25th CPSU Congress.

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TRANSPORTATION

NEW AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM IN LENINGRAD DESCRIBED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jul 79 p [illegible]

[Article by B. Grubiy, deputy minister of civil aviation and honored pilot of the USSR: "For the Ground and the Skies"]

[Text] Passengers in modern aircraft, as a rule, do not have any conception of the intense and difficult work done by the ground services. And at the same time the airfield air space is one of the most complicated from the viewpoint of traffic control. Here flights occur in specially assigned corridors with a variable profile (climb or descent), and with a change in the aircraft course. The intensity and density of the traffic force the air traffic controllers to collect and remember an enormous amount of information, to predict situations, to maintain constant radio contact with the crews, and under the conditions of an acute lack of time to make decisions for the giving of commands on board.

The situation is aggravated by the fact that the frequency of trips is increasing, and new international and domestic routes are being opened. During the peak hours, 15-17 aircraft are simultaneously under the control of one traffic controller. But the question is not merely in the greater traffic density. The range of aircraft flight speeds and altitudes is increasing. And this further complicates things and reduces the time for analyzing the air situation and for the controller to take a decision. There is one way out of the situation, namely the step-by-step comprehensive automation of air traffic control.

Proceeding from this, the Ministry of Radio Industry, in cooperation with other departments, upon the order of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, has developed the first Soviet automated air traffic control system for airports with high traffic density (START). Its development and introduction into operation have been the result of many years of joint creative effort by the collectives of institutes and plants, as well as civil aviation specialists (including scientific coworkers, traffic control and engineer personnel).

Just what is it? It is an aggregate of technical devices including radar and computer installations, and data transmission and display equipment. Its job is to solve the problems of the automatic collection, processing and presentation of the necessary information to the controllers such as, in particular, the coordinates of the aircraft, their call numbers, the set and current altitude and speed, the destination airport, remaining fuel, the structure of the traffic zone, and so forth. In addition, the work areas of the controllers receive planning information on the aircraft which should fly out of the given airport or arrive for landing. The controller can forecast the air situation, and this makes it possible to promptly take the necessary measures in the event of complicated situations. All the problems are solved in the airfield controller region which consists of the approach, prelanding maneuvering (circling) and landing sectors.

With the existing manual air traffic control systems, it is very labor consuming to coordinate and transfer control over the aircraft between adjacent sectors. START has made it possible to automate this process and by the simple pressing of a key there is the "silent" coordination and transfer of control. All of this is done in such a manner that there is no need for simultaneous two-sided actions by the controllers, and hence their work efficiency is additionally increased.

One of the most crucial legs of a flight is the landing. For increasing safety at this stage, the START system, in accord with the signals of the landing radar, automatically monitors landing safety and automatically generates command information making it possible to substantially simplify radar landing control and improve its quality. For this purpose the system not only displays the aircraft's coordinates when it is making the approach for landing, but also calculates and displays for the controller on a special board the occurring deviations from the set trajectory, magnetic course and the vertical rate of descent.

The state testing of the START system at the Leningrad Pulkovo airport in 1975 showed its high efficiency, and now it has been accepted for the nation's airports. The almost 4 years of testing the operation of the first Soviet START system have affirmed that it improves flight safety and the capacity of the air space under the conditions of intensive traffic, and reduces the workload on the controllers. In just the 3 summer months of last year, Pulkovo handled an additional 2,500 take-offs and landings, and the economic effect from reducing the aircraft stacking was about 750,000 rubles a month.

In developing the START system, it was necessary to solve a number of fundamentally new scientific and t[illegible]l problems, many of which have been judged inventions. Thus, me[illegible]e found for the automatic digital primary processing of the radar si[illegible]ls and the transmission of the received information over telephone lines. This has made it possible to automate control even of those aircraft which are not equipped with special on-board equipment. For an optimum interaction between the controllers and the equipment. For the first time the analogue and digital radar coordinates, the symbolic and graphic information on the air situation and the structure of the controlled zone have been combined on a single display screen, an universal functional keyboard has been manufactured, and so forth. As a result, START, in terms of a number of indicators, is superior to the analogous foreign devices.

As a whole the system increases the traffic capacity of the airfield, and reduces the load on the controller by 50 percent in terms of radio traffic. Here the nature of radio communications has also been substantially changed, it has basically been turned into command and control information.

In addition to Pulkovo Airport, during the current five-year plan, the system is to be installed at a number of other major airports of the nation. The development and introduction of series production and the putting into operation of the automated radar air traffic control system for high traffic density airports with just cause have been submitted for receiving the USSR State Prize.

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AEROFLOT PASSENGER SERVICES IN UZBEKISTAN DESCRIBED

Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 15 Jan 80 p 4

[Article by Sh. Zaynutdinov: "Aeroflot: Results and Prospects"]

> [Text] The Central Air Travel Agency [TsAVS] is the youngest independent enterprise of the Uzbek Civil Aviation Administration. Set up at the beginning of the Tenth Five-Year Plan, it contributes to the efficient use of the aircraft fleet and to the extending of air ticket sales and the reserving of seats for transit passengers. In terms of the volume of passenger services the agency now is second in the nation after the Moscow one. Over the 4 years it has served over 11 million persons.
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> This was among the information given out at a press conference held recently at the TsAVS. Its chief, A. A. Dadayan, spoke to the journalists.

The four-year plan was fulfilled on 8 December 1979, and the quota of last year was met for all production indicators on 26 December. Passenger traffic from Uzbek airports in 1979 rose by 4.3 percent in comparison with 1978, and was over 3 million persons. The collective of the agency and the 17 peripheral subdivisions did a good deal to improve services for the air travelers. New air terminals and runways were built for handling the modern IL-62, TU-154 and TU-134 jet airliners, and air gates are being built and designed in Kokand, Bukhara, Karsha, Fergana, Nukus and other cities. At Tashkent Airport, a comprehensive transit passenger service and a so-called landing group have been organized so that through-aircraft do not leave with free seats. During the fourth quarter of last year alone, around 15,000 persons used the services of the operations group. Ever greater popularity is being gained by the automated "Sirena" system which makes it possible to reserve seats in various cities of the country and issue return tickets. Along with the workers of the city and oblast travel agencies, the air tickets can now be delivered to the home, sanitorium, vacation houses and medical facilities.

In 1980, 76 percent of all the traffic for the Uzbek Civil Aviation Administration will be handled by the jet IL-62 and TU-154. New routes have been opened and are being opened from Tashkent to Zaporozh'ye, Voroshilovgrad, L'vov and Astrakhan', and from Samarkand to Leningrad and Kiev. In the spring and summer, the flight frequency will be increased on the central and resort routes. The high-speed TU-134 will begin operating from the Uzbek capital to Osh, Frunze and other cities. During the period of the 1980 Olympics, Uzbek aviators will serve over 10,000 participants and guests of the World Games, and for this circular routes are to be opened using the YaK-40 between Tashkent--Samarkand--Urgench and Tashkent--Samarkand--Bukhara.

Ordinarily the transit passengers make many complaints. Now an innovation has been introduced at the Tashkent Airport for them. If the ticket gives the date of the flight and the seat, then there is no need to go to the transit service, merely one hour before take-off go to the check-in desk. For the transit passengers who have an open ticket, within a 24-hour period they can fly out on regular flights which are less loaded. Over the last 3 years, the number of complaints received by the agency has declined by 45 percent.

In conclusion, we would like to rebuke the Tashkent City Executive Committee which up to now has not carried out the instructions of the Uzbek Council of Ministers on providing additional space for the personnel and other services of the TsAVS. The building on Sapernaya Square has become crowded for all the subdivisions of this agency.

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TRANSPORTATION

BRIEFS

ZEYA RIVER BRIDGE--Concrete has been poured into the last support of the bridge over the Zeya River near Blagoveshchensk. There are 24 supports in the bridge. Commissioning of the bridge is planned for the fourth quarter of 1980. [Blagoveshchensk Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 16 Oct 79]

PALATKA-KARAMKEN ROAD--A state commission has accepted a section of cement covered road from Palatka to Karamken. With the commissioning of the 7-kilometer section the road from the rayon center to the miners' settlement, a distance of 18 kilometers, has been completed. During construction 34 reinforced concrete water drainage structures were installed on the road. Preparations are now underway for construction of a new section of road from Palatka to the airport. [Magadan Domestic Service in Russian 0755 GMT 15 Oct 79]

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